

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. In a computer system adapted to executing binary translated code, a
2 method for responding to an exception comprising the steps of:

3 defining a plurality of recovery points in the binary translated code, each of
4 said plurality of recovery points comprising an executable instruction;

5 prior to execution of said executable instruction, saving the address of said
6 executable instruction;

7 executing subsequent instructions;

8 detecting an exception;

9 invoking an exception handler;

10 reconfiguring the state of the computer system to reflect the state of the
11 computer system at said executable instruction;

12 using run-time information, translating foreign code beginning at an
13 instruction corresponding to said executable instruction; and

14 determining if said exception re-occurs.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, upon resolving
2 the exception, returning to said binary translated code following the recovery point that
3 correspond to said executable instruction.

1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of terminating
2 execution of said binary translated code if said exception handler is unable to resolve the
3 exception.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of defining said
2 plurality of recovery points during binary translation of foreign code.

1 5. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of defining said plurality of
2 recovery points is performed at run-time.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein said instructions comprise a plurality
2 of operations and said defining step further comprises the step of optimizing the sequence of
3 execution of said operations.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said optimizing step further comprises
2 the steps of:

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maintaining documentation describing intermediate results of said operations;

and

committing the values of said plurality of registers to documentation prior to execution of said executable instruction.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said invoking step further comprises the steps of:

- recovering the address of said executable instruction;
- determining the location of said set of registers; and
- invoking a binary translator to re-translate a sequence of foreign code corresponding to said executable instruction and said subsequent instructions, said binary translator adapted to generate an in-order sequence of binary translated code corresponding to said foreign code.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said invoking step further comprises the steps of: committing the state of said computer system to said documentation at a next to occur recovery point.

10. In a computer system adapted for executing optimized binary translated code while maintaining precise exception order, said computer system comprising:
a processing unit for executing a sequence of instructions, each of said instructions comprising a plurality of operations that may be executed in parallel; each of said operations having at least one operand; said processing unit adapted to detect the occurrence of an exception;
a register set for holding results of said operations and the state of said computer system as determined by execution of said operations and for storing the value of said at least one operand prior to executing said each of said instructions; and
an exception handler adapted to access said register set to recover the value of said operand and to generate an intermediate state representative of the state of said processing unit prior to the detection of the exception.

11. The system of claim 10 further comprising means for transferring the contents of said register set to a storage location prior to execution of a subsequent instruction.

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12. The system of claim 10 wherein said exception handler further comprises a set of documentation identifying a memory location for said contents.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said exception handler further comprises means for recovering from said exception by translating a portion of foreign code corresponding to said each of said instructions.

14. In a computer system adapted for executing optimized binary translated code while maintaining precise exception order of foreign code, a method for recovering from a detected exception comprising the steps of:
documenting information representative of the state of said computer system;
executing at least a first instruction, said first instruction having a plurality of operations executed in speculative mode;
executing a second instruction;
detecting whether the execution of said second instruction generated an exception;
upon detection of an exception, transferring information to a register set;
repeating execution of said at least a first instruction; and
transferring program execution to an exception handler.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said register set comprises a set of general purpose registers.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein said documenting information is stored in a portion of said register set.

17. In a computer system adapted for executing optimized binary translated code while maintaining precise exception processing of foreign code comprising the steps of:

- A) Executing a first sequence of instructions in a speculative mode where each of said instructions comprise a plurality of operations which may be executed in parallel;
- B) Saving the address of at least one of the instructions in said sequence of instructions in a storage location;

4 temporarily preserving register data and system status information before
5 executing instructions that will calculate a variable;

6 invoking an exception handler prior to generating side effects;
7 responding to said exception with said exception handler using said
8 temporarily preserved register data to redirect operation of said computer program

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein operands in the temporary registers
2 are retained until reassigned by another operation.

1 31. The method of claim 30 further comprising, in response to an
2 exception, the step of recalculating operands by re-executing the instruction to recover side
3 effects.

1 32. The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of allocating a
2 portion of general-purpose registers in a register set to function as temporary registers.

1 33. The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of allocating a
2 memory region for storing information regarding the location of a foreign register set in said
3 register set.

1 34. A computer system adapted for executing a computer program
2 comprising binary translated code comprising:

3 a first memory for storing foreign code;

4 a second memory for storing optimized binary translated code;

5 a recovery point register for storing the address of a selected instruction in said
6 binary translated code;

7 a processor for executing binary translated code and adapted for detecting the
8 occurrence of an exception; said processor coupled to said recovery point register and to said
9 first and second memory;

10 an exception handler, coupled to said processor, for recovering the address
11 stored in said recovery point register in response to detection of an exception by said
12 processor, said address corresponding to one instruction in said foreign code; and

13 a set of documentation stored in said second memory for preserving register
14 data and system status information of the state of said computer system prior to detection of
15 said exception;

16 means for translating said foreign code to obtain sequential binary code
17 corresponding to a portion of foreign code beginning at said one instruction in said foreign
18 code.